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BROMYARD RURAL DISTRICT
HEREFORDSHIRE

JOINT
ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health

and of the
Public Health Inspector

for the year

1957





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MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December, 1957)

J. T. ARNETT (Chairman of the Rating Committee) ...	Stoke Lacy
H. A. BAYLISS (Vice-Chairman of the Water Committee)	Cowarne, Little
T. G. BEMAND	Grendon Bishop
T. E. BOLIVER	Bredenbury
Miss D. A. BOUCHER	Cradley
T. E. BOWCOTT	Felton
F. CALE	Cradley
Rev. R. G. CARTMEL	Upper Sapey
G. L. CORKE (Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee)	Wolverlow
I. T. DAVIES	Linton
F. C. L. ESSENHIGH	Brockhampton
C. T. EVANS	Wacton
E. F. H. EVANS	Tedstone Delamere
S. B. GREEN	Whitbourne
W. E. GREENHOUGH	Thornbury with Hampton Charles
L. R. HIBBERT (Chairman of the Water Committee and Chairman of the Commons Management Committee)	Stanford Bishop
H. C. C. HODGES	Avenbury
J. F. HYDE	Ocle Pychard
F. G. JORDEN	Winslow
S. LEIGHTON	Collington
R. MAUND	Cowarne, Much
R. H. MESS (Chairman of the Finance Committee) ...	Ullingswick
J. C. PAGE	Edvin Loach, Saltmarsh and Tedstone Wafre
T. PARKER	Pencombe with Grendon Warren
W. D. PORTER (Chairman of the Council)	Acton Beauchamp
J. L. POWELL (Vice-Chairman of the Housing and Health Committee)	Edwyn Ralph
Miss M. SHEPHERD	Whitbourne
F. O. B. STODDART	Froome, Bishop
Mrs. E. V. THOMAS	Norton
S. A. WALLIS	Cradley
Rev. W. G. WALTON (Vice-Chairman of the Council and Chairman of the Housing and Health Committee)	Froome, Bishop

Clerk to the Council	J. B. SENIOR, Solicitor
Deputy Clerk to the Council	A. C. BISHOP

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	-	-	-	O. L. EVANS, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H. (from 1.3.57)
Acting Medical Officer of Health	-	-	-	I. F. MACKENZIE, M.D.(Edin.), D.P.H., D.T.M. & H. (from 1.1.57 to 28.2.57 and from 18.6.57)
Public Health Inspector	-	-	-	N. E. WORDSALL, M.A.P.H.I.
Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health			-	C. A. PREECE
Clerk to the Public Health Inspector			-	ELSIE M. BAYLISS

To the Chairman and Members of the Bromyard Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Annual Report for 1957 is presented herewith. It has been prepared jointly by the Public Health Inspector and myself. To our Public Health Inspector must go the credit for the major portion of the report, because, as even a cursory glance through its pages will show, it deals very largely with those aspects of the public health service of the Council that are within his province. As his work and that of the Medical Officer of Health are very closely inter-related, it is much better to have the report presented as a joint effort as we in Bromyard Rural District have done during the past three years.

Members of the Council will not misunderstand me when I say that it is with regret that I find myself in the unexpected position of having to present the report for 1957. My regret is due to the fact that that duty devolved upon me because of the serious illness of Dr. O. L. Evans, my colleague and successor. When I relinquished the office of Medical Officer of Health at the beginning of the year and introduced him to the Northern districts, none of us thought that within three months he would be stricken with Paralytic Poliomyelitis of such severity that his own resignation would ultimately become inevitable. That very unhappy event—his resignation—took place at the end of the year and a successor was subsequently appointed. Though the members of the Council and the officials have recently (1st May, 1958) welcomed Dr. G. D. K. Needham, the new Medical Officer of Health, very warmly, that welcome was saddened by the reflection that the youthful Dr. O. L. Evans, who endeared himself to all of us during our short period of co-operative work in the public health service of Herefordshire, was still confined to hospital because of extensive paralysis.

The outbreak of Poliomyelitis, which the illness of Dr. O. L. Evans, the first case in the county heralded, smouldered in North Herefordshire throughout the summer months, and three cases were notified and confirmed in our district; one of them being paralytic

in character. The urgency with which vaccination against Poliomyelitis is being proceeded with by the County Health Committee, through Dr. J. S. Cookson, the County Medical Officer, to the limit of the available supplies of vaccine, is heartening to parents within the rural district who are anxious to have their children protected before the commencement of the seasonal period of greatest risk. A substantial proportion of our children have already been vaccinated, and it is expected that many more will be treated before the incidence of this disease again rises throughout the country.

I. F. MACKENZIE,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Office,
4, Church Street,
Leominster.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	....	....	....	....	....	61,114
Population	....	....	....	....	....	7,060
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1957) according to the Rate Books	....	....	....	....	....	2,253
Rateable Value	....	....	....	....	....	£31,027
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	....	....	....	....	....	£125

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate)	....	111	58	53
(Illegitimate)	....	8	5	3
STILL BIRTHS	....	4	3	1
DEATHS	....	111	61	50
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE	....	4	2	2
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES		Nil		

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1957

Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	....	16.8
Birth Rate for England and Wales	....	16.1
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total live and still births)	....	32.5
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales	....	22.4
Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	....	15.7
Death Rate for England and Wales	....	11.5
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	....	33.6
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	....	23.0

WATER SUPPLIES

(a) Sampling

One hundred and one samples of water were taken for bacteriological or chemical examination with the following results :

Council Owned Supplies

		Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Total
Bacteriological	....	44	1	45
Chemical	....	—	—	—

Private Supplies

Bacteriological	....	16	37	53
Chemical	....	2	—	2
Total	....	62	38	100

Laboratory unable
to make a report on

1

Total 101

(b) Dwellings Provided with piped water

Houses with water laid on inside house, Decem-
ber, 1956 1065

Existing houses to which water has been made
available inside house during year 8

New houses provided during year with
approved water supply 6

Total number of dwellings with water
laid to house 1079

Houses with no water supply within the
house 1174

Total 2253

The above figures need qualification, the figure of 1,065 being particularly misleading. In no case is a public supply referred to ; there are Council Housing Supply schemes and a few privately owned installations, most of which produce potable water, but a great many of the houses referred to are supplied from wells of doubtful quality and quantity. A few boreholes have been sunk, mainly to afford farm supplies or to serve Council estates.

Towards the end of the year tenders were received for the provision of a village scheme at Bishop's Froome, taking water from a supply at present serving a Council estate. It is to be hoped that this scheme will come into operation during 1958. The Ministry also gave approval to the scheme for Bredenbury, and the Council was authorised to seek tenders. Both the Bishop's Froome and Bredenbury schemes are designed to fit in with the larger District scheme.

Last March the Ministry held their public enquiry into the proposed Herefordshire Water Board.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Public Sewerage Schemes as such, do not exist at present. The many housing plants require constant and careful attention ; some are of inadequate design, while others are badly sited.

Houses with water borne sanitation	....	....	791
Houses with dry sanitation	....	....	1562
Houses known to have no drainage system		....	500

REFUSE COLLECTION

The amount of refuse collected continues to increase.

Attention is given to the tips, but that at Ridgway Cross is a continual source of worry due mainly to unauthorised tipping, and will, it is feared, remain so until it is completely filled and fenced off.

			Mileage	Properties	Loads
1953	....	....	5560	16675	172
1954	....	....	6421	17371	182
1955	....	....	6487	18082	185
1956	....	....	7228	19591	202½
1957	....	....	7432½	19989	198

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The statistical return is printed below :

	Type of Property				
	Non-Agricultural				Agricultural
	(i) Local Author- ity	(ii) Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	(iii) All other (including business premises)	Total of Col. i, ii & iii	
1. Number of properties in Local Authorities District ...	36	1819	32	1887	534
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of—					
(a) Notification	Nil	17	—	17	—
(b) Survey under the Act	36	20	27	83	88
(c)	—	—	—	—	—
3. Not applicable					
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sect. 2) which were found to be infested by					
(a) Rats	2	—	—	2	—
Major					
Minor	10	7	—	17	36
5. Number of infested properties (in Sect. 4) treated by L.A.	12	6	—	18	—
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	41	10	—	51	—

Visits to farms have decreased in numbers, it having been realised that our previous frequency was altogether too high. Tips and other housing properties receive visits at least monthly, and on each occasion opportunity is taken to check surrounding areas.

There are rumours of an impending change in the matter of treatment on farm premises, and when this happens perhaps the Council may wish to review their arrangements.

HOP PICKING ACCOMMODATION

The 1957 season saw probably the greatest rush yet towards the introduction of hop picking machines, especially the smaller type.

Of the 71 hop growing farms, 33 housed pickers during the 1957 season and 40 farms picked by machine.

Number of resident pickers including caravan dwellers dropped further and was estimated to be not more than 1,130. Needless to say the more undesirable elements among the pickers are the first to be shedded.

HOUSING

Once again the Council have been forced, through continued financial pressure by the Central Government, not to erect any new Council Houses. This is particularly unfortunate in the case of Edwyn Ralph where a site, a new bore and pumping equipment are already available and substantial debt has been incurred.

There were suggestions that bungalows might prove to be the best proposition but, save at Edwyn Ralph and certain of the Council's existing Estates, absence of a piped water supply is bound to prove a severe handicap. Suitable sites have also to be purchased.

It would appear that complete absence of new buildings must retard the Council's effort to deal with the poorer type dwellings still in occupation.

Progress by private development has also been disappointingly slow, only six dwellings being completed in 1957. Here again finance obviously played a part, but the difficulty of a water supply and limited electricity services, must have been a great discouragement.

Erection of New Houses by Private Enterprise

Number of dwellings completed	....	....	6
Number of dwellings in course of erection at the end of the year	....	....	7

In the light of these difficulties, steady progress was continued with slum clearance, although the Council's provisional rate of action against 25 dwellings per annum, was not maintained. The details are :

Number of houses subject to Time and Place Notices	16
Number of houses on which Demolition Orders were served	2
Number of houses on which Closing Orders were sealed	1
Number of houses on which Undertakings not to relet were accepted	11
Number of houses on which Undertakings to repair were accepted	2

The position regarding Category 5 houses is now :

Number of houses in Category 5 at the end of 1956	222
Deleted from all records	19
Placed in higher Category	12
	31
Total Category 5 to be dealt with at the end of 1957	191

Once again the Council have given every encouragement to owners wishing to take advantage of the Improvement Grants available. By December, 1957, improvement works at 71 houses had been completed and many more were in progress.

Actual figures since the passing of the Act and for 1957 are :

	1957 only	Total to December, 1957
Number of houses in respect of which full applications were received	26	96
Number of houses in respect of which grants were offered	26	91
Number of houses in respect of which applications were refused or withdrawn	2	3
Number of houses in respect of which improvement works were completed	30	71
Total value of works approved for grant	£19,618 11s. 10d.	£59,301 14s. 0d.
Total grant offered in respect of above works	£8,679 13s. 0d.	£25,942 4s. 7d.

Reference is not often made to caravans in this report. The number licensed is relatively few ; each is dealt with according to its merits and no problems worthy of note, have arisen.

In addition there are a small number of vans, usually parked in obscure places and satisfactorily maintained, which are not licensed, the periods of occupation being very short and at irregular intervals. A daily visit would be necessary to establish the exact period of occupation, but the problem is not thought worthy of that time and expense.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Regulations

Number of Retailers licensed for T.T. milk	4
" " " " " Sterilised milk	1
" " " " " Pasteurised milk	4
Number of samples taken for biological examination	4
" " " found to be positive	—
" " " taken for other tests	1
" " " found to be unsatisfactory	—
Number of visits occasioned by milk duties	20

(b) Food and Drugs Act

Number of Public Houses 26

Number of Food Shops 29

Number of premises registered for the sale of ice-cream 16

Steady progress was made with the provision of more modern sanitary conveniences at Public Houses, especially in the parish of Cradley. Here work at one house was completed and improvements at two more, well advanced. Elsewhere improvements were made at one further Inn.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS

Number of licensed slaughtermen at 31st December 1957 8

Number of bullocks slaughtered and inspected 30

Number of heifers slaughtered and inspected 10

Number of pigs slaughtered and inspected 63

Number of sheep slaughtered and inspected 150

Application for renewal of licence to slaughter at Whitbourne was not made in July, and the slaughterhouse is not being used as such at present. It is understood that if the problem of water supply could be overcome, the occupier would be anxious to bring the premises into use again.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Premises	No. on Register	In- spections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	1	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A.	5	—	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A.	—	—	—	—
Total	6	—	—	—

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

ANALYSES OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE

Disease	Age of Patient										Total
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & over	Un-known	
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	2	—	3	1	—	—	—	6
Whooping Cough	2	2	2	4	—	14	4	—	2	—	30
Measles	—	6	1	8	3	33	10	1	1	2	65
Acute Pneumonia	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	2	1	8
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis :											
Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Tuberculosis :											
Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	4
Non-Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS

		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		Males	Females	Males	Females
Number on Register at 31st December, 1956	....	25	20	9	6
New cases notified	....	4	—	—	1
Moved into district	....	2	1	—	—
Moved out of district	....	1	2	—	—
Recovered	....	1	—	—	—
Number on Register at 31st December, 1957	....	29	19	9	7

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946, Section 26

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Vaccination and Immunisation are a County Council responsibility, and the figures given below have been kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

Numbers of children in the district who were immunised during the year :

Immunisation against	Age of child			Total	Rein-forcing Injections
	Under 1	1-4	5-14		
Diphtheria	42	29	21	92	147
Whooping Cough	40	30	2	72	—

Number of children in the district who were vaccinated against Smallpox during the year

Vaccination against	Age of child					Total	Revaccinations
	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2-4	5-14	15 & over		
Smallpox	56	5	4	1	1	67	3

PROTECTION FROM POLIOMYELITIS

Vaccination is being carried out by the County Health Department in accordance with the Rules of the Ministry of Health as to age groups, dosage, and so on. It is not practicable to maintain separate registers of children treated who reside in this district or in the neighbouring districts, so the total number of Bromyard Rural children protected is not available.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease					Males	Females	TOTAL
Syphilitic disease	....	....	....	....	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach			....	....	3	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus				....	3	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast			....	....	—	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	....				6	2	8
Diabetes	....	....	....	....	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system				....	6	9	15
Coronary disease, angina			....	....	5	4	9
Other heart disease			....	....	14	10	24
Other circulatory disease			....	....	3	3	6
Influenza	....	....	....	....	2	4	6
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	6	4	10
Bronchitis	....	....	....	....	2	1	3
Other diseases of respiratory system				....	—	2	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum			....	....	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis			....	....	1	—	1
Congenital malformations			....	....	1	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases				....	4	5	9
Accidents, other than motor vehicle				....	2	1	3
Suicide	....	....	....	....	2	—	2
All causes					61	50	111

Davis Bros., School Lane, Leominster

